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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: Yuji MUKAI et al.

Art Unit 1797

Appln. No.: 10/581,967

Exr. N. Young

Filed: June 7, 2006

Conf. No. 7261

For: HYDROGEN GENERATING APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2007, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Asou et al. (JP 2003-252604) in view of Komiya (US 2002/0042035). The references herein to the specification and drawing are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the points set forth below.

Claim 1 defines a hydrogen generator having: (1) first and second passages that branch from a common passage at their leading ends and join each other at their trailing ends and (2) first and second turning means, within the first and second passages, respectively, that turn a mixed gas received from the common passage in opposite directions, when viewed from the perspective of the flowing gas (i.e., the perspective viewed from the leading to trailing ends of the first and second passages). The purpose of branching a common gas passage, rotating gas in each branch passage in opposite directions, and then rejoining the branch passages is to mix the